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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,108	12/20/2001	Peter Thompson	0512.0051	9739

33805 7590 06/15/2004

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EXAMINER

BUI, THACH H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3752

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/027,108	<b>Applicant(s)</b> THOMPSON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Thach H Bui	<b>Art Unit</b> 3752	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed March 18, 2004 has been received and entered.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forsyth (U.S. Patent No. 4,593,855) in view of Blanchard (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,922).

Forsyth teaches an apparatus (i.e. a sprayer system) for use with an associated, comprising a frame (40), a tank (40) having a bottom portion and a top portion. The top panel (53a) is being substantially horizontal; the top surface includes a first surface of which is adapted to receive an associated pump/engine (3) and a second surface adapted to receive an associated reel (19). The bottom portion of the tank is adapted to be received by the platform between the first and the second wheels (47a) (see Fig. 1). Forsyth has all the features of the invention but Forsyth does not mention explicitly the supply tank with a bottom portion that is adapted to be received by the platform of the pick-up truck and fits between the wheel wells and the upper portion that is wider than the distance between the wells; and a tank has a bottom portion having a length L1 and a top portion having a length L3, the length L1 is less than the length L2 and the length L3 is greater than the length L2 but less than length L4. Blanchard teaches a

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tank for holding liquid, solids and etc. having a bottom portion that is adapted to be received by the platform of the pick-up truck and fits between the wheel wells and the upper portion that is wider than the distance between the wells (see Fig. 2). It would have been obvious to one skilled artisan in the art to modify the teachings of Forsyth and combine with Blanchard to have an apparatus having a tank with a bottom portion that is adapted to be received by the platform of the pick-up truck and fits between the wheel wells and the upper portion that is wider than the distance between the wells to hold liquids e.g. chemicals, pesticides and etc. for dispensing. Forsyth and Blanchard do not mention specifically a tank has a bottom portion having a length  $L_1$  and a top portion having a length  $L_3$ , the length  $L_1$  is less than the length  $L_2$  and the length  $L_3$  is greater than the length  $L_2$  but less than length  $L_4$ . It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have the length of  $L_1$  is less than  $L_2$  and  $L_3$  is less than  $L_4$ , since applicant has not disclosed that the length of  $L_1$  is less than  $L_2$  and  $L_3$  is less than  $L_4$  solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with the teachings of Forsyth combined with Blanchard. Methods follow by an apparatus.

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Parry is cited of general interest.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thach H Bui whose telephone number is 703-305-0063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mar can be reached on 703-308-2087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

T.B.  
06/08/2004



Gene Mancera  
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